

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03326 292017Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0032
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3326

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PFOR, OCON, AV, SP
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ENERGY: FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM (INFCEP)
AND SALZBURG CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 93528, 94663

1. CHARGE PERSONALLY DELIVERED COPY OF INFCEP PROPOSAL TO SPANISH ENERGY COMMISSIONER LUIS MAGANA. MAGANA SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS PROPOSAL WITH HIS STAFF AND OTHER GOS OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY MATTERS, PARTICULARLY DR. FRANCISCO PASCUAL, DIRECTOR OF THE JUNTA DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR (JEN), WHEN HE RETURNS FROM THE SALZBURG CONFERENCE. (MAGANA WILL NOT ATTEND CONFERENCE.) HE WILL CONTACT THE EMBASSY AFTER THIS REVIEW.

2. MAGANA ASKED WHAT WAS THE FRENCH POSITION ON THE PROPOSAL. THE CHARGE REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT KNOW SINCE PROPOSAL IS ONLY NOW BEING PRESENTED TO SELECTED NUCLEAR SUPPLIER AND CONSUMER STATES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 03326 292017Z

3. THE CHARGE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CALL TO INFORM MAGANA THAT THE NRC HAD APPROVED LICENSES FOR SHIPMENT OF ENRICHED FUEL FOR FOUR SPANISH REACTORS NEAR-ING START-UP DATES. MAGANA ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF THE REACTORS FOR VALDECABELLERS.

4. EMBOFF SUBSEQUENTLY DELIVERED COPY OF INFCEP PROPOSAL TO DR. PASCUAL WHO SAID IT APPEARED TO BE A GOOD BEGINNING AND THAT GOS IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT WITH US REPRESENTATIVES. JEN IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSAL IN TERMS OF PLANNING ITS NEW RESEARCH FACILITY NEAR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SORIA. HE SAID BASIC EUROPEAN POSITION IS THAT GIVEN ITS EXTREMELY LIMITED ENERGY RESOURCES (ESPECIALLY URANIUM), IT CANNOT AFFORD TO OVERLOOK THE USABLE FUEL, PLUTONIUM AND RECOVERABLE URANIUM, CONTAINED IN SPENT ENRICHED URANIUM. PASCUAL ALSO SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A COPY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S APRIL 28 NUCLEAR PROPOSAL TO THE US CONGRESS AND WOULD STUDY IT IN THE LIGHT OF SPAIN'S NEEDS FOR A DEPENDABLE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL AND EQUIPMENT.

5. PASCUAL EMPHASIZED THAT SPAIN SHARES US CONCERN ABOUT PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND IS READY TO ACCEPT ANY CONTROLS FELT NECESSARY TO PROTECT REPROCESSING AND OTHER STAGES OF THE FUEL CYCLE FROM BELLIGERENT USES. PASCUAL REFLECTED THAT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIS PERSONAL OPINION THOUGH, THAT NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION DEPENDS MORE ON THE "VOLUNTAD" (GOOD WILL) OF NATIONS THAN WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND AGREEMENTS. HE SAID THAT ANY MODERATELY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY COULD BUILD NUCLEAR WEAPONS IF IT DESIRED AND IS WILLING TO FOR GO ITS WRITTEN COMMITMENTS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SPAIN HAS CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED ITS "VOLUNTAD" IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 03326 292017Z

6. ON THE OTHER HAND, PASCUAL NOTED THAT SPAIN'S DEPENDENCE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY IN ITS OVERALL ENERGY SITUATION MAKES DELAYS IN RECEIVING NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT EXTREMELY DISTRUPTIVE AND DAMAGING. THE PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED IN THAT, CONTRARY TO MOST OTHER WESTERN EUROPE COUNTRIES, SPAIN'S ELECTRIC ENERGY IS PROVIDED BY PRIVATE UTILITY COMPANIES WHICH CANNOT AFFORD DELAYS THAT CAUSE FINANCIAL LOSS. (EMBASSY HAS BEEN GIVEN INFORMAL ESTIMATE BY AMERICAN ENGINEERING FIRM THAT EACH DAY'S DELAY ON A REACTOR PROJECT SUCH AS VALDECABALLEROS MEANS A LOSS ON THE ORDER OF \$200,000.)

7. PASCUAL CALLED NEWS THAT NRC APPROVED LICENSES FOR FUELSHIPMENTS GREAT. HE ALSO ASKED WHEN VALDECABALLEROS REACTORS WOULD RECEIVE NRC APPROVAL.

8. REGARDING THE SALZBURG CONFERENCE, PASCUAL SAID HE WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS BILATERAL MATTERS WITH SENIOR US REPRESENTATIVES. HE HAS PREVIOUSLY MET MESSRS. TAPE, FRI, SIEVERING AND KEENEY. HE WILL BE AT THE CONFERENCE MAY 1 THROUGH 7 RETURNING TO MADRID ON THE 8TH. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT, IN VIEW OF IMPORTANT SPANISH NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM AND THAT SINCE PASCUAL WILL BE ONLY SENIOR GOS NUCLEAR ENERGY OFFICIAL TO ATTEND CONFERENCE, EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO HAVE AS FULL CONVERSATIONS AS POSSIBLE.

9. THIRD MAN OF SPAIN'S NUCLEAR ENERGY "TROIKA" FON MIN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION BARROSO IS TRAVELLING ABROAD, BUT WILL NOT ATTEND SALZBURG CONFERENCE. EMBASSY HAS HAND DELIVERED COPY OF PROPOSAL TO HIS OFFICE WITH REQUEST THAT IT
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PAGE 04 MADRID 03326 292017Z

BE GIVEN HIS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION WHEN HE RETURNS. EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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